NATURAL NEWS

The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

WEEKLY STAFF NEWSLETTER
July 14, 1998

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT PROGRESS REVIEW

Monday, July 20, 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Join Education Department staff members at our Winter Progress Review for programs. The meeting will take place on Monday, July 20 at 10:00 a.m. in the Education Conference Room. During this meeting, we will be reviewing programs for the winter quarter (December, January and February. This is your opportunity to find out how we are progressing with our ideas and add your comments, suggestions, and concerns. Hope to see you there.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

ARACHNOLOGISTS WELCOMED AT FIELD MUSEUM

The International Congress of Arachnology (June 27 - July 3) was a great success. Over 300 participants from thirty-three countries came together. We were especially proud to have nearly 100 students among the participants. The participants enjoyed the Field Museum; many had never visited the museum before and commented on our great exhibits. The scientific program was very extensive with over 140 oral presentations and more than eighty posters. This was the largest gathering of arachnologists "since the beginning of time." About thirty participants worked in the alcohol collection of the Insect Division during the congress and many of them found exciting material for their own studies.

That the congress went so smoothly is due to Field Museum's excellent staff. The congress participants commented repeatedly during the congress, but also via e-mail later, on the quality of our staff: their professionalism, patience, competence and cheerful attitude. Our staff made the difference.

Special thanks are due to the Academic Affairs Office for their support, to the Insect Division staff (particularly **Dan Summers, Phil Parrillo, Margaret Thayer, Jim Louderman, David Pollock, Marius van der Merwe, Mike Crowley, Elizabeth Lehman, Renee Buecker** and **Roman Yukelivich**); to co-organizer **Rüdiger Bieler** (Zoology); to **John Slapcinsky** (Invertebrates) who organized the poster session; **Margaret Baker** (Invertebrates) who had maintained and made available to us files and a wealth of detailed information from the 1996 Congress of Malacology (held at Field Museum); **Ben Williams** (Library) who presented an exhibit of arachnid books from the rare book collection; **Clara Simpson** for help with the logo;

Lisa Morema (Graphics intern) for the beautiful banners; **John Weinstein** (Photography) for the congress photo, **Tom Anton** (Herpetology and scorpion enthusiast) for projection help; and **Erica Blair** (Zoology), **Laurie Sanders** (Group Sales), and **Cynthia Gully** (Membership) for help during social events. Throughout the duration of the congress we benefited from our absolutely outstanding Audio-Visual staff, and from the patience and help from our Housekeeping Department. Visitor Services and Security staff helped participants throughout the meeting. All of you made this special event possible.
Thank you! **--Petra Sierwald**

ASIAN WETLANDS FAUNA STUDY

During the past three summers **Harold Voris** (Zoology), **Daryl Karns** and **John Murphy** (Zoology), and several Thai colleagues have been studying the ecology of an assemblage of aquatic snakes in a wetlands at the edge of Lake Songkla in southern Thailand. Lake Songkla is one of the largest lagoonal lakes in Southeast Asia with a surface area of over 1,000 square kilometers. In 1996 and 1997 regional weather patterns were normal, and the annual monsoonal flooding restricted sea water to the lower portion of Lake Songkla that opens to the Gulf of Siam by a narrow inlet. In those years the klongs and wet meadows at the study site had low salinities and several species of water snakes and freshwater fish thrived. Rainbow water snakes reached densities of 0.5 snakes per square meter! However, this year the normal monsoon rains never materialized and low water, strong tides and wind conspired to bring sea water far into the lake. For many animal groups including freshwater fish, snails, and snakes, the effects of this salt water intrusion were catastrophic. Few snakes survived and the freshwater fauna was driven to local extinction. These findings highlight the value of long-term serial studies that can detect and explore natural population fluctuations.

WEBMASTER LOETEL FEATURED IN SUN-TIMES ARTICLE

Field Museum Webmaster **Brad Loetel** was prominently featured in a July 6 *Chicago Sun-Times* article on the evolution of the webmaster profession. In the article, which profiled several Chicago-area businesses, Brad commented on the increasingly team-oriented nature of web management and design. Brad was pictured (in a nearly half-page photo) displaying The Museum's home page on his Powerbook (with Brachiosaurus in the background).

FAREWELL

Dear colleagues,
My last day at the Field Museum is Friday, July 17. In the process of cleaning out my office, I'm reliving many fond memories. The last eight years have been a true learning experience!! I was invited to apply to the Master's in Historical Administration program at Eastern Illinois University, about two months ago, and I've been offered a part time job in the History Department. I'm off to Charleston for the next nine months and wish to thank all for making this a fun, growing and challenging time. May the ties with whom a friendship bloomed not be broken. Thanks to all for eight great years!! **Maureen Ransom**

1998

August

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Atrzyan-SFH 10:00am-2:00pm Kwebber-Rice 10:00am-1:00pm NHL Breakout-8am-T
2 Atrzyan-SFH 10:00am-2:00pm NHL Breakout-8am-T ***American Assn. For Chinical Chemistry-McCormick Pl***	3 KWebber-JST 5:00pm-10:00pm ***American Assn. For Chinical Chemistry-McCormick Pl***	4 Contact Chicago- SFH 6:00pm-10:00pm 500 KWebber- JST- 5:00pm-10:00pm Music Theater Workshop-JST2:00pm-4:00pm ***American Assn for Clin.Chem-Mcormick Pl***	5 Asian American Journalists Assoc.-SFH/Bal /Rice 6:30pm-9:30pm 400 Music Theater Workshop-JST 2:00pm-4:00pm ***American Assn for Clinal Chem-McCormick Pl***	6 Museum open to the public 5:00pm-9:00pm Music Theater Workshop-JST 2:00pm-4:00pm ***American Assn for Chinical Chemistry-McCormick Pl***	7 Argonne-SFH 500 Music Theater Workshop-JST 10:00am-4:00pm	8 ATrzyan-SFH 10:00a-2:00pm Fire vs LA-3pm
9 Atrzyan-SFH 10:00am-2:00pm ***Low Rider Mega Show-McCormick Pl***	10 KWebber-JST 5:00pm-10:00pm	11	12	13 Museum open to public 5:00pm-9:00pm JThymes-SFH/JST 8:00am-2:00pm	14 CAndreson-Field Associates-Whole Museum 7:00pm-12:00am	15 ATrzyan-SFH 10:00a T-Special Events- Rice Concert-6pm-T Fire vs San Jose-7pm
16 ATrzyan-SFH 10:00am-2:00pm Church of Christ-JST 6pm-10pm ***Hardware Show Expo-McCormick Pl***	17 Church of Christ-JST 6pm-10pm ***Hardware Show Expo-McCormick Pl***	18 CAndreson-SFH 5:00pm-8:00am Church of Christ-JST 6pm-10pm ***Hardware Show Expo-McCormick Pl***	19 Church of Christ-JST 6pm-10pm ***Hardware Show Expo-McCormick Pl***	20 Museum open to public 5:00pm-9:00pm Church of Christ-JST 6pm-10pm	21 T-KWebber-Overnight T-Special Events-SFH/JST Church of Christ-JST 6pm-10pm *BEARS-PRESEASON-7:00pm*	22 JThymes-Neighbor's Day-10:00am-2:00pm The Marmon Group, Inc-SFH/B 6:00pm-10:00pm 325 MEMunley-JST/Sea Mam./Grd Flr 5pm-12am **CHICAGO AIR & WATER**
23KWebber-JST 9am-5pm **CHICAGO AIR & WATER SHOW**	24 KWebber-JST 5-10pm ***Chg Gift Show-McCormick Pl***	25 KWebber-JST 5-10pm ***Chg Gift Show-Retailer Conv-McCormick Pl***	26 Merrill Lynch-SFH 6:00pm-9:00pm 800 KWebber-JST 5:00pm-10:00pm ***Chg Gift Show-Retailer Conv-McCormick Pl***	27 Museum open to public 5:00pm-9:00pm ***Chg Gift Show-Retailer Conv-Dist America McCormick Pl***	28 Abbott Inc.-SFH 6:00pm-10:00 400 T-Kwebber-Overnight *BEARS-PRESEASON* ***Chg Gift Show-Retailer Conv-Dist America - McCormick Pl***	29 T VIVA! CHICAGO Society for Arts-JST ***Retailer Conv-Dist Am McCormick Pl***
30 Society for Arts-JST **VIVA! CHICAGO** ***Retailer Conv-Dist-America McCorm Pl***	31 Kehe-SFH 500					

Thank You!

It's July and we made it! Museum Campus Chicago would like to thank all the dedicated VOLUNTEERS who worked during POW WOW 1998, Museum Campus Dedication, the Museum Campus Opening Gala and the Museum Campus Auxiliary Event. All events were successes and the raves continue. Thank you so much for helping to make Museum Campus Chicago a reality. A belated but certainly not forgotten thank you to all.

In addition, we would like to thank the following Field Museum personnel who facilitated the events (everything from invoices to city permits to trolleys) and the creation of a grand park space. Your involvement made a huge impact.

MIRIAM ALLEYNE
CINDY ANDRESEN
STEPHEN BELL
JOE BYRNES
ANNIE CRAWLEY
JIM CROFT
RON CUNDIFF
LAURA GATES
TOM GEARY
HELEN GREEN
STEVE GRISSOM
CAROLYN KLYCE
JIM KOEPPL
CAROL KONIECZNY
PAT KREMER
FAY HARTOG-LEVIN
JOHN McCARTER
MARY ELLEN MUNLEY
JOHN PETREIKIS
STEPHANIE POWELL
ANITA PURNELL
MARCIA PYLE
PAULA ROBINSON
AL SPENCER
SHAWN VANDERZIEL
RAY VAN HOOK
KRISTEN WEBBER
JOHN WEINSTEIN
DIANE WHITE

.....and any one else who we may have overlooked.

We invite everyone at the Field Museum to you enjoy our inaugural summer and experience the outdoor programming which includes "The Big Bang" performance, hands-on activities, architectural tours, musical and dance performances, free trolleys and a rollerblade and bicycle valet. For information, please call x323 or x586. Our recorded information line is 312.409.4178.

Come here and really go somewhere. MUSEUM CAMPUS CHICAGO welcomes you.

Christina Breslow
Museum Campus

REORGANIZATION

The Budget, Accounting and Purchasing Departments have merged to form the "Finance Department" - #325. There are four subgroups in Finance, headed by four Administrators: **Lisa Wodis** is the Budget/Grants Administrator; **Judy Burns** is the Audit/Accounting Administrator; **Paula Robinson** is the Financial Operations Administrator; and **Tom Geary** is the Purchasing Administrator. If you would like an organization chart, or have any questions about the responsibilities of the personnel in the Finance Department, please call **Dana Brink** - director of Finance (x366).

SOUTH ENTRANCE CONSTRUCTION

The south entrance will be under construction starting July 14 with the tentative completion date of October 15. The visible work will be done at night, and behind-the-scenes work will be done during the day. The south door will be open to visitors, except on July 28. On that day you may use the west entrance or stairway 7 which is to the west of the south entrance.

Ernst Pierre-Toussaint

NEW EDITORIAL TEAM NAMED

Following my departure from the Museum, **Rodger Patience** (Development) will serve as the new editor of the *Natural News*. **Erica Kelly** (Finance) will lay out the newsletter each week. Their first issue will be published on Friday, July 31. (There will be a gap of one week before the next issue.) The deadline will be Tuesday, July 28, as always.

Although the editing of the *Natural News* is in new hands, the responsibility for its continuing success rests squarely with you. Write early and often (this is Chicago, after all!) with news from your department and with occasions for celebration. And don't hesitate to call or e-mail Rodger or Erica with questions.

Rodger Patience	ext. 617	patience@fmnh.org
Erica Kelly	ext. 216	ekelly@fmnh.org

Note: The *Natural News* will be produced using Microsoft Word 97, so please submit items as e-mail attachments or on diskette in that format whenever possible. Call Rodger if you're not sure whether your file is in a compatible format.

Thank you again for all your help and cooperation over the years.

Carolyn Klyce